

Appl. No. 09/600,054
Amdt. Dated 10/20/2004
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 20, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 4-35 and 100-102 are allowed. Claims 90-95 are objected and claims 1-3 and 89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 90 and 91 have been amended. Claim 89 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 90-95 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended claim 90 to place into independent form to include limitations from independent claim 89, which is now cancelled. The dependency of claim 91 has been amended appropriately. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter identified in claim 90. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow pending claims 1-3 and claims 90-95.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bhatt, et al (6,405,191). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, further discussions regarding the grounds for traverse are moot based on the allowability of claims 1-3 and cancellation of claim 89. Withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

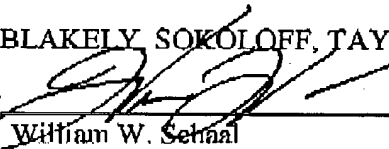
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 10/20/2004

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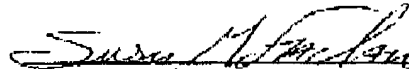
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